

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:DNMILLER/RN

APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, UNGA, HU

SUBJECT: VISIT OF FOREIGN MINISTER PUJA TO WASHINGTON;
CALL ON MR. ARMITAGE BY CHARGE KOVACS

REF. BUDAPEST 2653

1. HUNGARIAN CHARGE KOVACS MADE AN AUGUST 5 CALL ON ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE TO REQUEST AN APPOINTMENT WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER ON BEHALF OF FOREIGN MINISTER PUJA. PUJA PLANS TO ARRIVE IN NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 21 FOR UNGA, AND HIS SPEECH THERE IS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 6. KOVACS SAID PUJA PLANS TO STAY IN U.S. DURING THE ENTIRE INTERVENING PERIOD AND WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH THE SECRETARY DURING A VISIT TO WASHINGTON SEPTEMBER 23-24. MR. ARMITAGE UNDERTOOK TO RELAY THIS REQUEST, AND PROVIDE AN ANSWER AT A LATER TIME. NO REFERENCE WAS MADE IN THE CALL TO THE 1975 CONVERSATION AT HELSINKI BETWEEN SECRETARY KISSINGER AND PUJA

2. CHARGE THEN NOTED THAT AGRICULTURE MINISTER ROMANYI
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HAS ACCEPTED AN INVITATION FROM SECRETARY BUTZ TO VISIT

THE U.S. SEPTEMBER 26 -OCTOBER 8, APPROXIMATELY THE SAME PERIOD AS PUJA VISIT. WASHINGTON PORTION OF ROMANYI VISIT WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY TWO DAYS' DURATION. KOVACS ADDED THAT FIRST WASHINGTON SESSION OF HUNGARIAN-U.S. ECONOMIC COUNCIL IS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 27-28.

3. FOLLOWING THIS PRESENTATION,KOVACS WAS ASKED INFORMALLY BY MR. ARMITAGE TO CONSIDER WITHIN HIS EMBASSY THE IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO LONG-STANDING DIVIDED FAMILY CASES. KOVACS WAS REMINDED THAT THESE CASES,DISCUSSED OFTEN WITH HIS EMBASSY BY NAME ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, RELATE TO CSCE AND WE ARE "GOING DOWN THE ROAD" TO THE BELGRADE MEETING. MR. ARMITAGE ASKED THE CHARGE IN THIS REGARD, AND IN THE INTEREST OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS, TO CONTINUE QUIET DISCUSSION WITHIN THE GOH ON A RESOLUTION FOR THE "SMALL NUMBER" OF SUCH CASES WHICH HAVE BEEN RAISED REPEATLY BY OUR GOVERNMENT. IT WOULD NOT HELP, ARMITAGE POINTED OUT, IF INDIVIDUAL CASES WERE TO BECOME AN ISSUE BETWEEN US. KOVACS RESPONDED QUOTE: I CAN REALLY JUST PRIVATELY ASSURE YOU THIS WAS A MATTER DISCUSSED WITH THE AMBASSADOR (ESZTERGALYOS) BEFORE HE LEFT. HE SAID HE WOULD WORK ON THIS DURING HIS VACATION (IN HUNGARY) END QUOTE. ACCORDING TO KOVACS, ESZTERGALYOS ASKED THAT HE FOLLOW SPECIFICALLY NAMED DIVIDED FAMILY CASES IN HIS ABSENCE.

4. OTHER SUBJECTS: KOVACS VOLUNTEERED THAT HE WENT TO NEW YORK TO MEET CARDINAL LEKAI AND HIS PARTY; MR. ARMITAGE REPLIED THAT IT WAS GOOD THE CARDINAL COULD COME SO SOON AFTER HIS ELEVATION. CHARGE SAID NEW HUNGARIAN EMBASSY WAS VERY ATTRACTIVE, THAT STRIKE IS TEMPORARILY HOLDING UP EXTERIOR STONEWORK ON IT, AND THAT EMBASSY COMPLEX WOULD ALSO HOUSE AMBASSADOR, COMMUNICATOR, DRIVER AND JANITOR. HABIB

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